

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF PENRITH

for the year 1918.

The Local Government Board suggest that the Annual Report for 1918 should be brief—giving the vital statistics for the year, so that the records of the district may be continuous—with only short accounts of any outbreaks of disease and of other prominent sanitary events of the year.

Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Measures carried out for the year ending December 31st, 1918.

No. of Complaints	..	..	..	..	..	10
No. of Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	350
No. of Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	180
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	12
Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned and Repaired	..	..	..	..	..	21
Whitewashed, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	10
Houses Disinfected after Illness of Infectious Character	..	..	..	..	..	31
Also Langwathby, Watermillock (twice), Calthwaite, Plumpton Back Street, Hutton Marr, Ainstable and Culgaith Schools.						
House Drains :—						
Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	19
Ventilated	..	..	..	..	..	16
Privies and W.C.'s :—						
Repaired	..	..	..	..	..	3
New Provided	..	..	..	..	..	4
Supplied with Water	..	..	..	..	..	2
New Pail Closets	..	..	..	..	..	6
Water Supplies :—						
New Wells	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Wells Cleaned Out	..	..	..	..	..	1
Several houses have been supplied from public service mains during the year.						
Sewerage Works :—						
Schemes carried out	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Improved	..	..	..	..	..	3
Certificates for New Houses	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Licensed Cowsheds :—						
Number in District	..	..	..	..	..	30
,, of Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	90
Special Visits to Cases of Infectious Illness	..	..	..	..	..	29
No. of Slaughter Houses in District, namely :—	..	..	..	..	..	10
Red Lane End, Threlkeld, Great Salkeld, Glassonby, Langwathby, Melmerby, Kirkoswald, Skelton, Redhills, and Lazonby, the two latter being Government Authorised Slaughter Houses.						
No. of Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	70

THOMAS WATSON, Inspector.

Housing—

There is nothing much to report under this head for the past year. In view of the Government Policy of Reconstruction after the war, involving a New Housing Scheme for each Sanitary Area and of the very definite need for more houses in this District, this question will become a very important one to the Council in the near future.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Acute Infectious Disease.

The number of notifications received in 1918 was 94. There were 25 cases of Scarlatina, 3 of Diphtheria, 1 of Typhoid Fever, and 65 of Measles and German Measles. There were no cases of Erysipelas or of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Scarlatina—

Two unconnected cases occurred in January in the Eastern part of the District. In May, an outbreak of this disease commenced in the Calthwaite District. Upon receipt of the first notification, your Acting Medical Officer carried out the usual investigations and it was found that 4 Children from one family were attending Calthwaite School in a peeling condition, with a history of antecedent sore throats and rashes. The School was immediately closed for disinfection and the infectious children removed the same day to the Isolation Hospital. 7 cases occurred traceable to contact with the above mentioned four children.

In July and August, 4 cases occurred at intervals of about a week in members of the same family in a farm house in an isolated situation in spite of disinfection of the premises after each case. At the end of August, 3 members of a family living near Watermillock contracted Scarlatina, the infection being received from visitors from Scotland staying in the house. The measures taken were successful in confining the infection to the one house. In October, one case occurred in a girl attending Ainstable School. The School was closed and disinfected, the patient promptly removed to Hospital and no spread took place. At the end of October, 3 members of one family at Culgaith were notified. They were all removed to Hospital forthwith, the house disinfected and the School closed and disinfected and there was no spread of infection.

All the cases of Scarlatina except one were removed to the Isolation Hospital and none proved fatal.

Diphtheria—

One case occurred near Ainstable in July, another in Langwathby in September, while the third was a casual visitor at a Keswick Doctor's surgery and had left his home in the area of this Council and gone to Dumfriesshire before the bacteriological diagnosis was completed. The Medical Officer of Health for that County was at once notified and no doubt appropriate steps would be taken there to deal with the case. One of the two cases removed to Hospital died soon after admission, being in a moribund condition on arrival.

Typhoid Fever—

This case occurred in the Eastern part of the district but was found upon investigation to have contracted the infection outside the area. The patient was isolated at home and made a good recovery.

Measles and German Measles—

The former was epidemic in every part of the Rural District during the first four months of the year. In only four instances out of the 65 notified, was the notification received from the parent or guardian of the case. There is no doubt that many more cases were in existence than those to whom medical men were called in. Though this is the third year in which these diseases have been notifiable, the public still do not appear to be aware of their obligation to notify where a doctor is not in attendance. No deaths attributable to measles occurred during the year.

Influenza—

This annual scourge assumed in 1918 characteristics of a very terrible nature in this district in common with all parts of the Country and of the whole world ; nothing like it having been



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Infantile Mortality—

The number of Births was 183 and the number of Deaths of infants under 1 year was 11. This gives an Infantile Mortality of 60·1 per 1,000 births as compared with 93·75 for the year 1917 and with 97 for the whole of England and Wales.

The chief cause of death was, as usual, Debility due to Prematurity which accounted for 6.

Vital Statistics—

The estimated population for 1918 is again supplied by the Registrar General.

For the calculation of Death Rate, which is of course entirely civilian, the figure given is 11,115, and for the calculation of Birth Rate it is 12,454.

Births—

The number of Births for 1918 is 183 which gives a Birth Rate of 14·69 per 1,000. The Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales is 17·7 and it will be seen how lamentably far under it is the rate for this Rural District.

Ten years ago our Birth Rate was 22·49. Five years ago it was 19·33. Each year of the war has seen an accelerated decrease until we have arrived at 14·69 for 1918. The gravity of this state of affairs cannot be over estimated, and it must make every thoughtful person view the future with alarm.

Of the total births 99 were males and 84 were females. There were 12 Illegitimate Births, giving a rate of 65·5 per 1,000 births, which shows a slight improvement upon the rate for 1917, which was 67·7.

General Mortality—

The nett Deaths belonging to the District were 161, yielding a Death Rate of 14·48 per 1,000 which is practically identical with the Death Rate for 1917. The Rate for the whole of England and Wales is 17·6.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes (Civilians only).					84	77
Whooping Cough						1
Diphtheria						1
Influenza					15	19
Erysipelas					1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis					4	5
Tuberculous Meningitis					2	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases					1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease					5	7
Meningitis					1	
Organic Heart Disease					12	8
Bronchitis					4	4
Pneumonia (all forms)					6	2
Other Respiratory Diseases					1	
Diarrhoea etc. (under 2 years)						2
Appendicitis					1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease					1	2
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever						1
Congenital Debility					3	3
Violence, apart from Suicide						4
Other defined Diseases					27	15
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age					7	4
Total Births					99	84
Legitimate					92	79
Illegitimate					7	5

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORK PLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

PREMISES.	Number of			Prosecutions.
	Inspections.	Written Notices.		
<i>Factories</i>	Nil.	Nil.		Nil.
(Including Factory Laundries.)				
<i>Workshops</i>	44	2		"
(Including Workshop Laundries.)				
<i>Workplaces</i>	30	2		"
(Other than Outworkers' premises)				
Total	74	4		"

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

	No. DEFECTS FOUND.		REMEDIED.	
Want of cleanliness...	...	...	—	1
Want of ventilation...	...	...	—	1
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	—	1
Sanitary accommodation (unsuitable or defective)	...	...	—	1
Total ..	...	...	4	4

No. OF REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

54

A. STUART MACTAVISH, M.B., Ch.B.,

Acting M.O.H.

Epworth House, Penrith,
June, 1919.

